THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) All the small capacity exchanges have already been replaced by C-DOT exchanges in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Frauds in call centres

2360. SHRI CHO. S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many frauds are taking place in call centres by people posing as agents;

(b) if so, how many such cases have been reported;

(c) what action is being taken against such impostors; and

(d) what steps are being taken to prevent such frauds in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (c) According to CBI, one such case was registered by them in July, 2002 and the accused convicted in February, 2003.

(d) The provisions contained in IT Act, 2000, take care of such cases in Cyber Crimes.

Quality norms for bottled drinking water

2361. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to revise the quality norms for bottled drinking water;

(b) whether it is a fact that Multi-National companies would be benefited by this measure since many of the indigenous firms may not be able to upgrade their standards as per the new norms; and

(c) if so, how Government would protect interest of the indigenous firms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has already evolved amendments in Indian Standards for Packaged Drinking Water and Natural Mineral Water in order to align them with the world's best norms for pesticide residues.

(b) and (c) All the manufacturers of the Packaged Drinking Water and Natural Mineral Water irrespective of their status, will have to upgrade their manufacturing facilities to meet the revised norms prescribed in the relevant Indian Standards to ensure bottled water of reliable quality to common consumers. The equipment required to upgrade facilties as per the revised norms will cost around Rs. 30 lakhs and is indigenously available. The manufacturers who do not adhere to the revised specifications in the relevant Indian Standards, shall not be permitted to use BIS Standard Mark.

Sugar stock

t2362. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that more than 15 million quintals of sugar stock is available in the sugar mills of the cooperative and corporate sector in Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has sought assistance from the Central Government to make arrangements for selling this sugar;

(c) whether sugar of the State has also been included in the buffer stock of sugar being established by the Central Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) The stock of sugar in the sugar factories of the State of Uttaranchal after March,. 2003 release (Levy and Non-Levy) was 3.08 lakh M.Ts. Sugar stocks keep in changing as sale/dispatch of sugar for non-levy, levy and exports is a continuous process. fOriginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.